

TELEGRAM

M. 57,341
S. 101,427

MAY 7 1961

STATINTL

Not All in the Family

A large trial balloon floated up from the south lawn of the White House the other day and came to rest over the new headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency. Plainly visible on it is the name of Robert F. Kennedy.

For the word has been leaked that the younger Kennedy is his brother's choice to succeed Allen W. Dulles as director of our espionage forces when Dulles resigns shortly. This report was let out to test the reaction.

Our own reaction is that the choice would be an unfortunate one. Robert Kennedy is a capable young man, but not as wise as he will be 10 or 20 years from now. And wisdom is an essential quality for the director of the CIA. There are extremely difficult judgments to make, affecting our entire national interest. Even a man who has been in the intelligence business for much of his life, as has Dulles, sometimes guesses wrong. It is not the place for a man with a minimum of seasoning.

More than that, it seems to us, this is not the place for a man whose political and personal loyalty to the

President overrides everything else. It could be disastrous for the CIA to begin adjusting its intelligence estimates to the welfare of a political organization, but this is the background against which Robert Kennedy would work.

Like it or not, secretly gathering and assessing information has become a major responsibility of the United States government in late years. The leadership of this operation is an extremely sensitive position and one to be entered into without any commitment except to the continued freedom of the nation.

To keep this responsibility and the direction of our foreign policy all in one family is establishing a leadership structure that is too narrow. The Dulles brothers furnished an example of this, even though the experience of each in his field far exceeded that of the Kennedy brothers and even though Foster and Allen Dulles operated under a president who was outside the family.

Without disparaging Robert Kennedy's talents, we hope the President will look further when he selects a replacement for Allen Dulles.